

NEWS RELEASE



City of Cincinnati

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CINCINNATI ON THE MOVE: RED HOT WEEKEND SPECIAL EVENT ACCESS AND PARKING TIPS

The City of Cincinnati will be host to a series of special event activities between September 16, 2002 and September 23, 2002. These events include major activities in downtown Cincinnati including the last home stand at Cinergy Field for the Cincinnati Reds, Oktoberfest, and a football game between The University of Cincinnati Bearcats and The Ohio State University Buckeyes at Paul Brown Stadium. This will present an excellent opportunity for people to come downtown and enjoy the variety of activities that will be available. This time has been designated as the "CINCINNATI ON THE MOVE: RED HOT WEEKEND. The City is making every effort to put on a great show that will highlight the many exciting things happening in downtown. For more information about all of the events and activities in downtown Cincinnati this weekend log on to www.cincyusa.com.

It is important for people to plan their travel and parking needs to ensure that their trip to downtown is hassle free and that the day's activities are enjoyable. To make the RED HOT WEEKEND a successful and fun filled time people are encouraged to keep the following traffic tips in mind:

- KNOW WHERE TO GO
- GET THERE EARLY FOR GOOD PARKING
- USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
- CALL AHEAD

-more-

KNOW WHERE TO GO

Recommended access routes to these events will depend on your parking plans and the time you plan to arrive downtown. Those people destined to the sporting events on the Riverfront will access downtown south of Fifth Street and also utilize parking in Northern Kentucky. Those people destined to Oktoberfest are encouraged to access downtown north of Fifth Street and utilize parking in the northern parts of downtown. The following routes are suggested:

From I-71 Southbound:

- **Riverfront access:** Take the Reading Road/Gilbert Avenue exit and follow Gilbert to Court Street. Turn right onto Court and then turn left onto Reedy. From Reedy, turn left onto Eggleston Avenue and follow Pete Rose Way. Or, continue south on I-71 to the Third Street exit and follow Third Street to downtown parking locations.
- **Oktoberfest access:** Take the Reading Road/Gilbert Avenue exit and follow Reading Road to Central Parkway. Take Central Parkway to Sycamore, Walnut and Race Streets to parking lots in northern downtown.

From I-71/75 Northbound:

- **Riverfront access:** Exit at Second Street and follow Second Street east to Riverfront parking if you have a prepaid parking pass. If you do not have a prepaid parking pass exit at Fifth Street in Covington and use the Kenton County Garage or the park and ride lot near Jillians.
- **Oktoberfest access:** Exit to westbound US 50/Sixth Street and take the left lane to the Gest Street Exit. Turn right on Gest Street and right again to Seventh Street. Follow Seventh Street to northern downtown parking lots.

From I-75 Southbound

- **Riverfront access:** Exit at Freeman Avenue and follow to Mehring Way or exit at Second Street if you have a prepaid parking pass. If you do not have a prepaid parking pass exit at Seventh Street and park downtown.
- **Oktoberfest access:** Exit to either the Seventh Street exit or the Ezzard Charles exit and park in the northern downtown parking lots.

From Columbia Parkway

- **Riverfront access:** Exit at the Third Street exit and follow to downtown parking locations if you have a prepaid parking pass. If you do not have a prepaid parking pass, exit at Sixth Street and park in northern downtown.
- **Oktoberfest access:** Exit at Sixth Street to park in northern downtown.

From I-471 North

- **Riverfront access:** Take the US 50/Third Street exit to Third Street and access downtown parking if you have a prepared parking pass. If you do not have a prepaid parking pass, exit at Sixth Street to park in northern downtown.
- **Oktoberfest access:** Exit either at Sixth Street or Liberty Street and park in northern downtown.

Getting to these events is only half the fun – getting home is just as easy. Motorists can access the major highways and roads by the following routes:

- **I-75/71 South:** Use the Third Street on ramp or take the Clay Wade Bailey Bridge to Covington, Kentucky and then south to Pike Street. I-75/71 South can also be accessed in Cincinnati by following Ninth Street west to the on ramp.
- **I-75 North:** Take Central Avenue north to Fourth Street or Sixth Street west.
- **I-71 North or I-471 South:** Take Second Street to the I-71 North and I-471 South entrance ramps or use Broadway to Fifth Street or take Central Parkway/Reading north to entrance ramps at Liberty and Elsinore.
- **Columbia Parkway East:** Take Second Street to the Columbia Parkway/US 50 ramp, or use Broadway to Fifth Street and access the Columbia Parkway/US 50 ramp from Fifth Street.

There will be several street closures to keep in mind and these recommended access routes will help motorists avoid these areas. The following major street closures will be in effect beginning at 6:00 PM Friday, September 20, 2002 and continuing until 5:00 AM Monday, September 23, 2002 to create space for the 2002 Oktoberfest celebration.

- Fifth Street between Race Street and Broadway
- Vine Street between Fourth and Sixth Streets with access provided to parking garages only.
- Walnut Street between Fourth and Sixth Streets with access provided to parking garages only.
- Main Street between Fourth and Sixth Streets with access provided to parking garages only.
- Sycamore Street between Fourth and Sixth Streets with access provided to parking garages only.

The following streets will be changed from one-way to two-way operation to provide access to abutting properties.

- Vine Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets and between Fifth and Sixth Streets.
- Broadway between Sixth Street and Fifth Streets.

All parking on the above mentioned streets will be prohibited. Metro and TANK services will be routed around the closed areas.

The following other closures will also be in effect:

- Elm Street between Second Street and Theodore M. Berry Way will be closed before and after the UC/OSU football game on Saturday, September 21, 2002.
- Riverboat Row in Newport, Kentucky will be closed between the access point from Dave Cowens Drive to the Taylor Southgate Bridge throughout this entire weekend.
- There will be lane restrictions in Covington, Kentucky at Fifth & Madison and at Fifth & Scott.

GET THERE EARLY FOR GOOD PARKING

There are more than enough parking spaces on the Riverfront, in downtown Cincinnati and in Northern Kentucky, to accommodate the expected crowds at these events. Some of the more remote lots offer shuttles and METRO and TANK will have a variety of park and ride services available.

It is important to arrive early to get the best parking and it is also necessary to know when parking will be at a premium. For the RED HOT WEEKEND, the greatest parking demand will occur on Saturday, September 21, 2002 in the afternoon. On this day, a REDS game is scheduled, the UC/OSU football game is scheduled and Oktoberfest will be in full swing. Many of the Riverfront parking spaces will be reserved for either those REDS fans or UC/OSU fans that have prepaid parking passes. All other event patrons and Oktoberfest patrons will have to park in outlying lots and/or north of Fifth Street in downtown. The attached map shows the parking that will be reserved for REDS fans and UC/OSU fans that have prepaid parking passes and also shows spaces that will be reserved for handicap parking. All other parking in downtown Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky will be on a first come/first serve basis.

USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The best way to beat the crowds is to use public transportation provided by the Metro and by the Transportation Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK). This is a quick and convenient way to reach these events and you can avoid the cost of parking.

In addition to their normal weekend schedule Metro will be offering park and ride service on Saturday and Sunday at the following four locations:

- Anderson Township Park and Ride (on Beechmont Avenue behind the Municipal Building.) Drop off at Fifth & Broadway.
- Raymond Walters Park and Ride (9555 Plainfield Road) Drop off at Fifth & Broadway.
- Forest Park Park & Ride (1160 Kemper Meadow Drive off Winton Road) Drop off at Sixth and Race.
- Western Hills Plaza (behind the breezeway) Drop off at Sixth & Race.

Metro will also be providing a downtown circulating shuttle that will be routed along Second Street, Broadway, Eggleston Avenue, Central Parkway, and Race Street to improve access to remote parking lots in the Central Business District and the Riverfront event venues.

Metro has also arranged for special service on Saturday for the UC/OSU football game. This service will get you to and from the game and will depart from the Eden Parking Garage at the University of Cincinnati and drop passengers off at the Riverfront Transit Center below Second Street. Parking at the Eden Garage is free courtesy of the University of Cincinnati Parking Services. Additional information on boarding points, fares, and routing for the Metro can be obtained by contacting MetroCenter at 513 621-4455 or click on the web site at www.sorta.com.

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In addition to their normal weekend schedule TANK will operate the Southbank Shuttle that will transport fans from Northern Kentucky to Cincinnati. Patrons can catch the Southbank Shuttle at all Northern Kentucky riverfront hotels and all downtown hotels in Cincinnati. Park and Ride lots are also located throughout Covington and Newport including the very convenient Kenton County Garage. For more information about the Southbank Shuttle and routing of TANK buses contact TANK at 859 331-TANK or visit www.tankbus.org.

CALL AHEAD

Up to the minute and current traffic conditions are accessible by phone. Just call the ARTIMIS 511 number from any touch tone phone and key in specific route codes to receive up to the minute traffic information and estimated travel times. Out of town visitors may need to call (513) 333-3333 for this service. Also, follow the guidance provided by the ARTIMIS message signs that are located throughout the regions expressway system. For more information about ARTIMIS log on to www.artimis.org.

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PARKING FOR RIVERFRONT EVENTS SEPTEMBER 21, 2002

